

AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## A N N U A L   R E P O R T S

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1964

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:-

D. McGOWAN

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health  
Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare.  
Tel: Weston-super-Mare 890.

J.H. ELLIS

Chief Public Health Inspector,  
Certificate of R.S.I. and  
S.I.E.J.B. Certificate of  
R.S.I. for Inspectors of Meat  
and other Foods.

W. HIGHAM

Deputy Chief Public Health  
Inspector,  
Certificate of R.S.A. (Scotland)  
Certificate of R.S.A. (Scotland)  
for Inspectors of Meat and other  
Foods.

D. GRANTLEY SMITH

District Public Health Inspector,  
Certificate of R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.

R.T. BARRON

District Public Health Inspector,  
Certificate of R.S.A. (Scotland)  
Certificate of R.S.I. for  
Inspectors of Meat and other Foods.

J.S.S. STRONG

Rodent Officer.



AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1964

To: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District, and the work of the Public Health Department in 1964.

The statistical section again shows satisfactory results. In 1963, there was an unusually small number of infant deaths and it was expected that there would be an increase in 1964. Actually there were 8 infant deaths during the year, but this still gives the District a lower Infant Mortality Rate than that for the rest of the Country as a whole. The number of births in the area continues to rise, parallel to the trend which has been occurring elsewhere.

Apart from measles, there was no unusual outbreak of infectious diseases but like everyone else we were concerned about the typhoid outbreak in Aberdeen during the summer. This outbreak was probably due to infection of tins of corned beef during the canning process and although we were not directly affected in Somerset the Public Health Department was concerned with tracing and withdrawing from sale, stocks of potentially infected tins of beef.

Regarding the Public Health Services provided by the District Council progress is going on with various sewage disposal schemes in many of our villages. Another problem is adequate provision for the removal of household refuse. The Public Health Committee recommended a scheme for the introduction of a weekly collection service but the Council as a whole decided against this. I feel that a better service of refuse collection must be considered by the Council before long.

The Report of Mr. Ellis well deserves study as it shows the variety and extent of the work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors during the year.

I would also thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support and the Officers and Staff of other Departments for their assistance and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

D. McGOWAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1965.

# SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

## General Statistics.

Area of District	90,956 acres
Population: 1931 Census	22,076
" 1951 "	26,535
" 1961 "	30,796
Registrar General's Estimate for Mid 1964	32,570
Rateable Value	£1,181,992
Number of Inhabited Houses	10,545

## Extracts from Vital Statistics for Year 1964

### LIVE BIRTHS:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	241	246	487
Illegitimate	13	15	28
	<u>254</u>	<u>261</u>	<u>515</u>

LIVE BIRTHS RATE: (per 1,000 population) = 15.8

CORRECTED BIRTH RATE: (Comparability Factor 1.20) = 19.0

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS: (per cent of total live births) = 5.4%

### STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>

STILL BIRTH RATE: (per 1,000 live and still births) = 15.3

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS: 523

INFANT DEATHS: (Deaths under 1 year)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	6	2	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>

### INFANT MORTALITY RATES

TOTAL INFANT DEATHS (per 1,000 live births) = 15.5

LEGITIMATE INFANT DEATHS (per 1,000 Legitimate live births) = 16.4

ILLEGITIMATE INFANT DEATHS (per 1,000 illegitimate live births) = Nil.

NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births) = 11.7

EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) = 9.7

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) = 24.9

MATERNAL DEATHS - Nil

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live and still births) = Nil

## DEATHS:

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
188	192	380

CRUDE DEATH RATE: (per 1,000 population) = 11.7

CORRECTED DEATH RATE: (comparability Factor 0.92) = 10.7

## VITAL STATISTICS

## BIRTHS:

The Registrar General gives the corrected number of live births in the District as 515 (254 boys and 261 girls), this being 33 births more than in 1963. Of these births 28 were illegitimate.

The crude birth rate for 1964 was 15.8 and when the comparability factor (1.20) is applied, the corrected birth rate was 19.0 per 1,000 of the total population compared with 18.1 in 1963. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1964 was 18.4.

## BIRTH RATES

<u>Year:</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>
England and Wales	15.0	15.6	16.1	16.4	16.5	17.1	17.4	18.0	18.2	18.4
Axbridge Rural District	14.6	12.8	15.9	16.4	14.9	18.0	15.2	18.8	18.1	19.0

## STILL BIRTHS:

The registered number of still births in 1964 was 8 of which one was illegitimate, thus giving a still birth rate of 15.3 per 1,000 total births.

## DEATHS:

After correction for transferable deaths the net total assigned to the District by the Registrar General was 380 (188 males and 192 females). This is 10 less than in 1963 and gives a crude death rate of 11.7. When adjusted for age and sex distribution to make it comparable with other districts, the death rate was 10.7 per 1,000 of total population compared with 11.3 for England and Wales as a whole.



The following table shows the causes of death in 1964:-

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Syphilitic Disease	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	5	6	11
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	12	2	14
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	9	9
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	25	19	44
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	25	35	60
Coronary Disease, angina	41	29	70
Hypertension with heart disease	3	5	8
Other heart disease	17	26	43
Other circulatory disease	7	17	24
Influenza	-	2	2
Pneumonia	5	12	17
Bronchitis	10	7	17
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	3	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	3	2	5
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Congenital malformations	3	-	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	6	18
Motor vehicle accidents	7	1	8
All other accidents	3	6	9
Suicide	1	-	1
All cases - Total	<u>188</u>	<u>192</u>	<u>380</u>

#### SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS 1964.

<u>Ages at Death in Years:-</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1	6	2	8
1 - 4	1	-	1
5 - 14	1	1	2
15 - 24	3	-	3
25 - 34	2	1	3
35 - 44	3	2	5
45 - 54	14	9	23
55 - 64	28	27	55
65 - 74	62	45	107
75 and over	<u>68</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>173</u>
	<u>188</u>	<u>192</u>	<u>380</u>

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no deaths from maternal causes in 1964.

## INFANT MORTALITY

Causes of Death	Under 1 day	1-7 days	1-4 wks	Total under 1 month	1 - 3 mnths	3 - 6 mnths	6 - 9 mnths	9-12 mnths	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Congenital abnormalities	1	2	-	3	-	1	-	-	4
Rhesus incompatibility	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Meningitis	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
	2	4	1	7	-	1	-	-	8

## WATER SUPPLIES

No shortage of water supplies was reported from any part of the District in 1964.

Every parish has a piped main water supply and 10,417 houses are supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company in this way. However, although every parish has a main water supply, not every house in each parish can be supplied from the mains and there are still 118 houses in the District relying on other sources. Eighty houses depend on wells, twenty-four on springs and fourteen on rainwater.

Bacteriological and chemical sampling of public supplies is now carried out by the Bristol Waterworks Company, but independent sampling is also done by the Council's Public Health Department. The results of such sampling are given in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

The natural fluoride content of the various water supplies to the District is either none or only a trace. As Members of the Council know, I firmly believe that the addition of fluoride to the water supplies up to a level of one part per million would, in time, produce a great improvement in the health of the teeth of the next generation. However this is a very vexed question, and the County Council as the responsible authority have decided not to approve the principle. Meanwhile the School Dental Service in the County examined 51,000 children in 1964, and of these 30,000 were found to require dental treatment.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The following parishes have main drainage and sewage disposal systems:- Axbridge, Banwell, Blagdon, Butcombe, Cheddar, Minscombe, Locking, part of Shipham, Congresbury, and Wrington.

The following extensions, new works or improvements were carried out during the year:-

(a) Completed Cost.

Wedmore Sewerage scheme £49,809

Banwell, Knightcott Sewer Extension. 4,024

(b) In progress

Brean & Berrow Sewerage Scheme Phase I £50,530

Hutton, Locking & Banwell Sewerage Scheme Phase I £68,979

(c) Future Proposals Approximate Cost.

Brean & Berrow Sewerage Scheme Phase II £68,576

Bleadon Sewerage Scheme £55,347

Kewstoke Sewerage Scheme. £172,300

(Revised scheme now being considered by  
Ministry of Housing and Local Government)

Hutton, Locking & Banwell Phase II £34,461

Sandford, Churchill & Langford Sewerage Scheme £128,000

South Berrow, Brent Knoll & East Brent. Progress dependent  
on new scheme for Burnham-on-Sea. Cost not yet known.

## HOUSING

	New Houses built by	
	Local Authority	Private Enterprise
1957	112	124
1958	34	145
1959	11	181
1960	9	284
1961	8	290
1962	29	247
1963	25	296
1964	24	444
	252	2,011



	<u>December</u> <u>1964</u>	<u>December</u> <u>1963</u>
Number of houses owned by the Council	1646	1622
Number of applicants for Council Houses (inc. Old People's Dwellings)	411	333
Number of Families rehoused during the year	91	69

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the notifications of infectious diseases in the District during the year:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases notified</u>
Measles	106
Scarlet Fever	9
Diphtheria	-
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Meningococcal Infection	-
Dysentery	3
Whooping Cough	27
Acute Primary Pneumonia )	-
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia)	-
Acute Encephalitis	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Erysipelas	1
Food Poisoning	10
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	6
Tuberculosis - Non-Respiratory	-

### VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The following table shows the number vaccinated or re-vaccinated in the District in 1964, and for comparison the corresponding figures for 1963 and 1962.

	<u>Under</u> <u>1 year</u>	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>2 - 4 Yrs.</u>	<u>5 - 14 Yrs.</u>	<u>15 Yrs. or</u> <u>Over</u>	<u>Total</u>
	P. R.	P. R.	P. R.	P. R.	P. R.	P. R.
1964	32 -	102 -	11 -	2 9	12 43	159 52
1963	39 -	11 -	2 2	8 9	14 49	74 61
1962	192 -	57 -	76 24	338 291	496 999	1159 1314

P. = Primary Vaccination.

R. = Revaccination.

1962 was the year when smallpox was prevalent in the Country and the above vaccination returns reflect the anxiety created at that time. As would be expected the figures for the following year are much lower, but although they have improved in 1964, when we remember that about 500 births take place in the District every year and only 134 children under the age of two years were vaccinated, the situation is not satisfactory.

## TUBERCULOSIS

Six new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and no cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There was only one death due to this cause during the year. The number of cases on the Register at the end of the year was:-

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>	
<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
65	34	8	8	73	42

## B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

In 1956, the County Council, as the Local Health Authority, introduced a scheme for the vaccination of children against tuberculosis. B.C.G. (Bacillus Calmette Guerin) vaccine is used and the offer is extended to all thirteen-year old children. The children are first given a skin test with tuberculin (Heaf Test) and if the skin reaction is negative, they are then vaccinated. Children showing a positive Heaf Test do not require vaccination.

In 1964, 556 thirteen-year old children in the North West Somerset Divisional Area had the preliminary Heaf Test and of these 64 were found to be positive i.e. 11.5%. Of the remaining 492 negative reactors, 485 were given the B.C.G. vaccine. For various reasons seven negative reactors were not vaccinated.

## IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS

Again there were no cases of diphtheria notified during 1964, the last to occur in the District being in 1946. Immunisation against diphtheria by private doctors and in Infant Welfare Clinics continued throughout the year and 558 children under 5 years of age received primary immunisation. 42 children in the age group 5 - 14 years received primary immunisation and 870 children under the age of 15 years received reinforcing doses.

558 children under the age of five years were immunised against Whooping Cough, and 568 were immunised against Tetanus.

792 children in the school age group (5 - 15 years) received a "booster" dose of tetanus vaccine.

## POLIOMYELITIS IMMUNISATION

When immunisation against poliomyelitis started in 1957, the vaccine used was the Salk type which had to be given by injection. In February 1962, the Ministry of Health authorised the use of Sabin vaccine which is given by mouth. Naturally this is a much more convenient method of giving the vaccine, and is more acceptable to both children and adults. In addition, it is now believed to be a more effective vaccine than the original Salk vaccine. The value of immunisation has already been shown by the fact that poliomyelitis is now a comparatively rare disease and it is hoped that before long it will be completely eliminated from this Country. The following gives details of the numbers who were given immunisation in the area during 1964.

(a) Primary Immunisation

	<u>Salk</u>	<u>Oral</u>
Children and young persons born 1943 - 64	36	490
Persons born 1933 - 42	-	20
Persons under 40 years of age and priority groups	1	16

(b) In addition 466 people (in all age groups) received a reinforcing dose either with Salk or Oral vaccine.

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

The County Council, as the Local Health Authority, is responsible for the provision of a number of personal health services mainly connected with maternity and child welfare; the School Health Service (through the Education Committee) and mental health. The Medical Officer of Health to the District Council is also the Divisional School Medical Officer for the N.W. Somerset Divisional Executive Area, and carries out a number of other duties concerned with the personal health services of the County Council. Child Welfare Clinics are held at Axbridge, Banwell, Bleadon, Cheddar, Congresbury, Hutton, Locking R.A.F. Camp, Locking Village, Winscombe and Wrington.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1964.

To: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the Year 1964.

HOUSING

The following tables indicate the progress made during the year in dealing with substandard houses.

Although the housing circumstances of the majority of inhabitants in the District have never been better, it is also true to say that, in the case of people of modest means, the gap between standards of accommodation of the best and worst housed has never been wider.

Due to a combination of circumstances, in certain parishes there is considerable difficulty in securing the rehousing of families in unfit houses. The yearly statistics of houses improved can be of little comfort to families who have been waiting so long for a satisfactory home.

Discretionary Improvement Grants.

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Rejected</u>
Position at 31st December, 1963.	489 applications (549 dwellings)	476 applications (534 dwellings)	13 applications (15 dwellings)
Applications dealt with during 1964.	35 applications (38 dwellings)	33 applications (36 dwellings)	2 applications (2 dwellings)
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Position at 31st December, 1964.	524 applications (587 dwellings)	509 applications (570 dwellings)	15 applications (17 dwellings)

Standard Improvement Grants.

	<u>Applications Received.</u>	<u>Applications Approved</u>	<u>Applications Rejected</u>
Position at 31st December, 1963	111	103	8
Applications dealt with during 1964.	15	15	-
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Position at 31st December, 1964.	126	118	8

Rural Housing Survey.

During the year 53 surveyed houses were made fit compared with 33 in 1963. 16 houses were demolished or closed during the year. The summary of categories, revised to December, 1964 is as follows:-



Number of properties satisfactory in all respects (Category 1)	1,069
Number of properties with minor defects (Category 2)	515
Number of properties requiring major repair or structural alterations (Category 3)	2,070
Number of properties unfit for habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable cost (Category 5)	220

Statutory Action under the Provisions of  
The Housing Acts.

During the year, statutory action under the provisions of Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 was instituted in respect of 25 dwellings. The result of such action is summarised as follows:-

Cases under consideration at 31.12.63.	27
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During 1964.

Demolition Orders made	....	....	....	5
Closing Orders made	....	....	....	4
Undertakings accepted not to use premises for human habitation until made fit.			....	19
Undertakings accepted to make premises fit			....	2
Cases under consideration at 31.12.64.			....	22

OVERCROWDING

On the 31st December, 1964 there were 4 cases of statutory overcrowding on the register.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

Many complaints which are received of the use of unlicensed land as caravan sites have a greater planning than public health significance. The follow-up of these complaints can take a considerable amount of time and may require many inspections having no public health background.

A. Number of licensed caravan sites  
(more than one caravan)

(a) Residential	7
(b) Holiday	63

Total number of caravans permitted on these sites

(a) Residential	388
(b) Holiday	2,660

B. Number of licensed caravan sites  
(single caravans)

(a) Residential	26
(b) Holiday	7

C. Number of tent sites licensed during the year

Number of tents permitted on these sites.	292
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## FOOD PREMISES

Details of the number of routine inspections of food premises are given in the summary at the end of this report.

No statutory proceedings were instituted during the year.

Particulars of the various types of food premises in the District are given below:-

### Number of Food Premises in Area (excluding registered dairy premises)

A.	<u>Food Manufacturing Premises</u>	
	Edible Fat Refineries	2
	Cheese Straw Factory	1
	Cheese Factories	3
	Bakers	8
B.	<u>Retail Shops</u>	
	Grocers	143
	Confectioners	40
	Butchers	23
	Fishmongers & Greengrocers (Combined)	4
	Greengrocers	12
	Dairies	3
C.	<u>Catering Premises</u> <u>(including licensed premises)</u>	158
D.	<u>Premises registered under the provisions</u> <u>of Section 16 of the Food &amp; Drugs Act,</u> <u>1955 (excluding premises used for the</u> <u>Manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream)</u>	
	Sausage making	16
	Fish frying	5

### MILK AND DAIRIES

Number of registered dairies	7
Number of milk distributors	89

### ICE CREAM

The ice-cream manufactured in the District is manufactured in accordance with the provisions of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947 to 1952 in preparation rooms which have been especially constructed or adapted for the purpose.

Number of premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream (complete cold mix)	2
Number of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream	208

10 samples of ice-cream were taken during the year.

## WATER SUPPLIES

The following is a summary of the results of the bacteriological examinations of the monthly water samples taken from the public supplies. All these supplies are chlorinated.

Probable No. of Coliform  
Bacilli MacConkey 2 days  
37°C.

0 per 100 ml.

Cheddar and Axbridge	12 samples
South Mendip (Cross)	12 "
South Mendip (Dunyeatt)	12 "
Winscombe & Churchill	12 "
North Mendip	12 "
Burrington	12 "
Twin Brook Adit	12 "
Blagdon	12 "
Kewstoke	12 "
North Mendip (Chelvey)	12 "
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120 samples	
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A sample of water from each of the above supplies was submitted for chemical analysis during the year. All these samples were reported upon by the Analyst as being free from plumbo-solvency or other harmful contamination.

7 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from private premises not receiving a supply from the public mains. 6 of these samples proved to be satisfactory and 1 to be unsatisfactory.

# MEAT INSPECTION

Two private slaughterhouses were licensed in the District and continued in operation throughout the year.

The following table gives particulars of carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	143	2	7	434	236	Nil
Number Inspected	143	2	7	434	236	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	15	2	-	14	4	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	10.4	100	14.2	3.2	1.6	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-</u>						
(a) Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Cysticercosis	28	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	108	39	30	17	2½	-
Total (in lbs.) condemned	136	39	30	17	2½	Nil



### CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

There are signs that the demand for cesspool emptying has reached its peak, mainly because of the sewerage schemes now in hand.

Total number of cesspools and settlement tanks  
cleansed during the year. 1,324.

### DRAINAGE.

Development in unsewered areas, involving in most cases the provision of septic tank drainage on sites of limited area, continues to be a constant source of anxiety.

### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

There was an increase of nearly 400 tons of refuse collected during the year, compared with 1963.

Estimated amount of refuse  
collected during the year 8,790 tons.

Total amount of salvaged material  
disposed of during the year:-

	<u>T.</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Qr.</u>	<u>£.</u>	<u>s.</u>	<u>d.</u>
(a) Paper and Cardboard	116.	18.	3.	236.	19.	3.
(b) Rags	4.	3.	0.	83.	0.	0.
(c) Non-ferrous metals	1.	18.	2.	192.	10.	0.
(d) Sundries		19.	0.	22.	16.	0.

### CLEAN AIR

The Clean Air Act requires local authorities to ensure that new industrial chimney stacks are of a sufficient height. Guidance on chimney heights is contained in a memorandum issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government who also emphasise the need for consultation between local authorities and planning authorities. It appears, however, that at present more weight is given locally to considerations of visual amenity than to the need to ensure an unpolluted atmosphere.



THE OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Work under the provisions of this Act have been confined largely to:-

- (a) Visits regarding registrations and the checking of information given on application forms.
- (b) Preliminary inspections to acquaint employers with the provisions of the Act.

Number of premises:-

	(a) Registered	(b) Inspected
Offices	84	34
Retail Shops	132	77
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	8	4
Catering establishments open to public, canteens	43	9
Fuel storage depots	1	Nil
	<u>268</u>	<u>124</u>

Total number of visits made by the Inspectors to premises = 454

Defects

Employers were notified of the following items requiring attention:-

Sec. 5	Overcrowding	1
Sec. 6	Temperature	76
Sec. 7	Ventilation	1
Sec. 8	Lighting	Nil
Sec. 9	Sanitary conveniences	11
Sec. 10	Hand washing facilities	22
Sec. 11	Supply of drinking water	1
Sec. 12	Accommodation for clothing	1
Sec. 14	Seats for sedentary workers	3
Sec. 15	Eating facilities	Nil
Sec. 16	Floors, passages, stairs	14
Sec. 17	Fencing of machinery	16
Sec. 24	First aid provisions	74

Accidents

	<u>Fatal</u>	<u>Non-fatal</u>
Number reported	Nil	3
Number investigated	-	2
Number of cases where recommendations were made	-	2

# RODENT CONTROL

The following is a copy of the annual return submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, which gives details of rodent control work carried out in the District during the 12 months ending 31st December, 1964.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949. REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1964.

		TYPE OF PROPERTY				
		Non-Agricultural				
		Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	All other (inc. Business premises).	Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3	Agric- ultural
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
I. No. of properties in Local Authority's District						
		18	10545	589	11152	979
II. Total No. of Properties inspected as a result of notification.						
		-	201	40	241	21
No. of such properties found to be infested by:-						
Common Rat	Major	-	21	12	33	10
	Minor	-	101	5	106	5
Ship Rat	Major	-	-	-	-	-
	Minor	-	-	-	-	-
House Mouse	Major	-	10	14	24	4
	Minor	-	54	7	61	4
III. Total No. of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act						
		16	1271	110	1397	320
No. of such properties found to be infested by:-						
Common Rat	Major	10	20	9	39	60
	Minor	1	330	16	347	201
Ship Rat	Major	-	-	-	-	-
	Minor	-	-	-	-	-
House Mouse	Major	-	2	-	2	-
	Minor	1	19	34	54	-
IV. Total No. of properties otherwise inspected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)						
		-	10	5	15	-
No. of such properties found to be infested by:-						
Common Rat	Major	-	-	-	-	-
	Minor	-	5	1	6	-
Ship Rat	Major	-	-	-	-	-
	Minor	-	-	-	-	-
House Mouse	Major	-	-	-	-	-
	Minor	-	5	4	9	-

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	All other (inc. Business premises).	Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3	Agric- ultural
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
V. Total inspections carried out - inc. re-inspections	51	1682	194	1927	390
VI. No. of infested properties in Sections II, III, & IV treated by. the L.A.	12	486	21	519	42
VII. Total treatments carried out - inc. re-treatments	14	524	31	569	52
VIII. No. of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act:-					
(a) Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Structural Work (i.e. proofing)	-	-	-	-	-
IX. No. of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sec. 4 of Act.	-	-	-	-	-
X. Legal Proceedings	-	-	-	-	-
XI. No. of "Block" control schemes carried out	-				

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The following table gives the particulars of the work carried out during the year:-

### 1. INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions of health

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number of</u>			
	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	4	NIL	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	110	83	NIL	NIL
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises)	9	9	NIL	NIL
	124	96	NIL	NIL

### 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>				<u>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.</u>
<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred :-</u>			
		<u>To H.M. Insp.</u>	<u>By H.M. Insp.</u>		
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-	
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-	
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)	-	-	-	-	
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	2	
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	
	3	3	-	2	

## PETROLEUM

Number of premises licensed for the storage of petrol	151
Number of existing underground tanks tested	25
Number of underground tanks failing test	5

The use of the 5 defective tanks for the storage of petrol was discontinued and they were filled with sand or fine concrete.



SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY, OR UNDER THE  
SUPERVISION OF, THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Total number of inspections made (including re-inspections)	4,892
Total number of houses and premises inspected	1,717

Number of inspections made of, and visits paid to:-

Dwelling houses	1,380
Food Premises and catering establishments (Food & Drugs Act)	652
Caravan Sites and Moveable Dwellings	764
Factories	87
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	614
Ice-Cream Premises	18
Dairies	21
Drainage Systems	358
Petrol Installations	569
Swill Boiling Plants	23
Agricultural Holdings	25
Premises as the result of complaints of nuisance	248
Tests of Swimming Bath Water	11
Investigations into cases of infectious diseases	119
Premises, disinfested or disinfected	19
Drain tests of drainage systems believed to be defective	22

In conclusion I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support and the Medical Officer of Health, the other Chief Officers of the Council and the staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant

J. H. ELLIS.

Chief Public Health Inspector.



